



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods



UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS

City of Seattle - University of Washington Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Meeting #119

June 12, 2012

University of Washington Tower
4333 Brooklyn
Seattle, WA 98105
22nd Floor

Members

Matthew Fox (Co Chair)
University District Community Council

Daniel Kraus (Co Chair)
University of Washington Staff

Elaine King
Montlake Community Club

Betty Swift
Portage Bay/Roanoke Community
Council

Teresa Lord Hugel
University District Chamber

Brett Frosaker
Ravenna Bryant Community Assoc.

Eric Larson
Roosevelt Neighbor's Alliance

Dave Eckert
Roosevelt Neighbor's Association

Chris Leman
Eastlake Community Council

Pat Cowen
University Park Community Council

Chris MacKenzie
Wallingford Community Council

Neal Lessenger
University of Washington

Kirsten Curry
Laurelhurst Community Club

Ashley Emery
University of Washington Faculty

Hien Dang
University of Washington Students

Alternates

Anita Bower
Montlake Community Club

Tom Roth
Ravenna Springs Community Council

Matthew Stubbs
University of Washington

Larry Sinnott
Ravenna Bryant Community Assoc.

Brian Ramey
University District Community Council

Ruedi Risler
University Park Community Council

Heather Newman
Laurelhurst Community Club

Ex-Officio Members

Steve Sheppard – DON
City of Seattle, Dept. of Neighborhoods

Theresa Doherty – UW
University of Washington, Office of
Regional Affairs

Members and Alternates Present

Matt Fox, Co-chair, UDCC Chris Leman Teresa Lord Hugel
Brett Frosaker, RBCA

Staff and Others Present

Steve Sheppard, DON Theresa Doherty, UW Phil Thiel

I. Welcome and Introductions and Housekeeping

The meeting was opened by Mat Fox. Brief introductions followed. Approval of minutes for meetings 117 and 118 were deferred for lack of Quorum.

II. Light Rail Station Plaza – Phil Thiel

Phil Thiel was introduced to discuss his concept for the development of the Light Rail Station Plaza area.—He noted that he has been a resident and landowner three blocks from the UW for half of his 90 years and was a long-term professor of architecture and urban planning at the UW, and has lectured on the subject in North/South America, Europe, and the Far East.

He noted that he sees great potential for the Station Area as a plaza. After construction the only indication of the station underground will be two kiosks at the north and south ends of the block; most of the block will be empty. The only remaining building is the Neptune and the AM/PM store. This potential redevelopment sites is literally at the very heart of the University District. It's a nexus of transit in pedestrian, bike, automobile, and rapid transit and will generate a lot of traffic.

Mr. Thiel then passed out sketches of his proposed schematic plans. He noted that his concept would retain much of the open space. The idea is at post construction coming up to grade the only things on the surface will be just the two exits at the north and south end of the site other than that there's a potential for a space which goes from the façade of this building to the alley side of the retail on University Avenue. Space is just about ideal for a pedestrian plaza. Incredible opportunity that has dropped in our laps

The City of Seattle-University of Washington Community Advisory Committee advises both on the community impact of planning and development activities at the University of Washington and surrounding area. For more information on CUCAC activities call either: Steve Sheppard – City of Seattle (206) 684-0302 or Theresa Doherty – University of Washington (206) 221-2603.

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and it would make the center of the University District something which is very distinct; it would be a fantastic world class upgrade

III. Proposals around Major Institutions that DPD are proposing

Mt Fox noted that there is a proposal to eliminate minimum parking requirements related to Major Institutions. He noted that these changes might apply to the UW in some instances where the UW owns outside of the immediate MIO. He also noted that it appeared that the Advisory Committees for other Major Institutions were not consulted and were caught unaware of the change.. He offered the observation that CUCAC really ought to be concerned that DPD is unilaterally proposing major amendments to Major Institutions Code without community involvement.

Chris Leman stated that that DPD had contacted Foster Pepper which represents all the major institutions and told them it was considering eliminating these parking requirements and wanted their input and so they did actually consult the major institutions but not other stakeholders.

Steve Sheppard agreed that the issue had not been formally discussed at other Advisory Committees. He noted that once he was aware of the issue he did briefly raise this issue with the Virginia Mason committee, Harborview, and Seattle University Advisory committees. Mr. Sheppard noted that he was told of the change by DPD and that it was characterized as a part of the City's annual cleanup of the land use code related to urban centers and was intended to bring the Major Institutions more in line with the way other major uses were regulated in those areas. The major impact, if adopted, would be to eliminate minimum parking requirements in some cases.

Mr. Sheppard noted that the issue remains contentious and it is unclear how the City Council will deal with it. He also noted that in discussion this with the various institutions they were unclear how this might affect them. All have noted that they could not operate economically without sufficient parking. All now provide more than the minimum parking required and often are close to the maximum allowed number of parking spaces. He also noted that unless changed the parking requirement codified in each adopted Major Institutions Master Plan would remain in effect. But a new plan theoretically might go forward without that parking.

Chris Leman reiterated that DPD contacted the attorneys that work for all the major institutions last summer but did not consult either the Department of Neighborhoods. He noted that the change might not affect UW within its major institutions overlay but UW has a number of buildings that are outside of the major institutions overlay including in South Lake Union and it is not clear whether this provisions might allow them to develop there without providing parking.

Theresa Doherty responded that it was her understanding that any building that the University builds outside of our MIO boundaries is subject to other land use code provisions and that the change would not eliminate those requirements.

Chris Leman urged members to attend the City Council meetings on this issue. He noted that there will be a meeting tomorrow starting about 9:30 and that Nick Licata will offer at least two amendments and one of them is not to have the change apply to hospitals.

IV. Work Program

Steve Sheppard passed out copies of the previous CUCAC Work Program which included CUAC's Annual reports for 2008 and 2009 and a 2010 and 2011 Work Program. He noted that CUCAC should be working on the report for 2010 and 2011 and identifying its priorities for the remainder of 2012 and 2013 now.

Chris Leman suggested that the Committee consider expanding the scope of its issues to be more proactive. He suggested a change in meeting format to include a little round robin of reports from CUCAC's constituent groups identifying issues that they see. He noted that some issues are of concern to

the surrounding neighbors but only rarely come before CUCAC. A good example is student conduct and public safety. He noted that he wouldn't mind if there were a very brief public safety report each month. Another issue is trees. There was a policy which is still in affect that trees to be removed are supposed to be reported before hand to CUCAC with enough time for CUCAC to weigh in. This process was important and should be resumed.

VI. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.